

So the bill (S. 848) was deemed read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 848

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONSENT OF CONGRESS TO THE HISTORIC CHATTAHOOCHEE COMPACT BETWEEN THE STATES OF ALABAMA AND GEORGIA.

The consent of Congress is given to the amendment of articles I, II, and III of the Historic Chattahoochee Compact between the States of Alabama and Georgia, which articles, as amended, read as follows:

"ARTICLE I

"The purpose of this compact is to promote the cooperative development of the Chattahoochee valley's full potential for historic preservation and tourism and to establish a joint interstate authority to assist in these efforts.

"ARTICLE II

"This compact shall become effective immediately as to the States ratifying it whenever the States of Alabama and Georgia have ratified it and Congress has given consent thereto.

"ARTICLE III

"The States which are parties to this compact (hereinafter referred to as 'party States') do hereby establish and create a joint agency which shall be known as the Historic Chattahoochee Commission (hereinafter referred to as the 'Commission'). The Commission shall consist of 28 members who shall be bona fide residents and qualified voters of the party States and counties served by the Commission. Election for vacant seats shall be by majority vote of the voting members of the Commission board at a regularly scheduled meeting. In Alabama, two shall be residents of Barbour County, two shall be residents of Russell County, two shall be residents of Henry County, two shall be residents of Chambers County, two shall be residents of Lee County, two shall be residents of Houston County, and two shall be residents of Dale County. In Georgia, one shall be a resident of Troup County, one shall be a resident of Harris County, one shall be a resident of Muscogee County, one shall be a resident of Chattahoochee County, one shall be a resident of Stewart County, one shall be a resident of Randolph County, one shall be a resident of Clay County, one shall be a resident of Quitman County, one shall be a resident of Early County, one shall be a resident of Seminole County, and one shall be a resident of Decatur County. In addition, there shall be three at-large members who shall be selected from any three of the Georgia member counties listed above. The Commission at its discretion may appoint as many advisory members as it deems necessary from any Georgia or Alabama County which is located in the Chattahoochee Valley area. The contribution of each party State shall be in equal amounts. If the party States fail to appropriate equal amounts to the Commission during any given fiscal year, voting membership on the Commission board shall be determined as follows: The State making the larger appropriation shall be entitled to full voting membership. The total number of members from the other State shall be divided into the amount of the larger appropriation and the resulting quotient shall be divided into the amount of the smaller appropriation. The then resulting quotient, rounded to the next lowest whole number, shall be the number of voting members from the State making the smaller contribution. The members of the Commission from the State making the larger contribu-

tion shall decide which of the members from the other State shall serve as voting members, based upon the level of tourism, preservation, promotional activity, and general support of the Commission's activities by and in the county of residence of each of the members of the State making the smaller appropriation. Such determination shall be made at the next meeting of the Commission following September 30 of each year. Members of the Commission shall serve for terms of office as follows: Of the 14 Alabama members, one from each of said counties shall serve for two years and the remaining member of each county shall serve for four years. Upon the expiration of the original terms of office of Alabama members, all successor Alabama members shall be appointed for four-year terms of office, with seven vacancies in the Alabama membership occurring every two years. Of the 14 Georgia members, seven shall serve four-year terms and seven two-year terms for the initial term of this compact. The terms of the individual Georgia voting members shall be determined by their place in the alphabet by alternating the four- and two-year terms beginning with Chattahoochee County, four years, Clay County, two years, Decatur County, four years, etc. Upon the expiration of the original terms of office of Georgia members, all successor Georgia members shall be appointed for four-year terms of office, with seven vacancies in the Georgia membership occurring every two years. Of the three Georgia at-large board members, one shall serve a four-year term and two shall serve two-year terms.

"All board members shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. Vacancies shall be filled by the voting members of the Commission. The first chairman of the commission created by this compact shall be elected by the board of directors from among its voting membership. Annually thereafter, each succeeding chairman shall be selected by the members of the Commission. The chairmanship shall rotate each year among the party States in order of their acceptance of this compact. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of the Commission."

**UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREE-
MENT—CONFERENCE REPORT ON
S. 395**

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate turns to the consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 395, the Alaska Power Administration bill, that there be 2 hours of debate equally divided between Senators MURKOWSKI and MURRAY, or their designees, and that immediately upon completion of the debate or the yielding back of the time, the Senate proceed to a vote on the adoption of the conference report, all without any intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, it is my understanding that this conference report would not be brought up by the leadership prior to Tuesday, November 14.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS ON UNITED STATES-NORTH KOREA AGREED FRAMEWORK

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 35, Senate Joint Resolution 29.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will state the resolution by title.

A joint resolution (S. J. Res. 29) expressing the sense of Congress with respect to North-South dialogue on the Korean Peninsula and the United States-Korea Agreed Framework.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the joint resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud the unanimous passage of Senate Joint Resolution 29, a resolution which a bipartisan group, Senators HELMS, THOMAS, SIMON, ROBB, and I, introduced in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last March.

The resolution expresses the sense of Congress with respect to the serious issue of North Korea-South Korea dialog, which was a key part of the United States-North Korea Agreed Framework on the nuclear issue signed last October.

As my colleagues are aware, I have spoken extensively about the problems I see in the Agreed Framework, most recently on September 29 when I introduced S. 1293, a bill to provide for strict monitoring of and controls on U.S. spending on implementation of that agreement. There is no need to repeat those arguments here other than to stress the importance of passing that legislation as soon as possible.

Today I am speaking about only one specific, and critical element of the Agreed Framework: the necessity of a meaningful North-South Korean dialog. Without such a dialog, I am convinced that implementation of the Agreed Framework is unworkable. That's why it is up to us to make sure the North Koreans fulfill that and all of their other responsibilities in the Agreed Framework.

Passage of this resolution is also particularly timely when taking into account South Korean President Kim Young Sam's remarks to the Joint Meeting of Congress this summer. President Kim said:

Peace on the Korean Peninsula can only take root through dialogue and cooperation between the South and the North, the two parties directly concerned. Without dialogue, nothing can be accomplished. I am thus grateful that both the President and Congress have stressed the central importance of the South-North dialogue.

South Korea remains a trusted and loyal ally, and I believe we must follow a policy toward the Korean Peninsula that keeps South Korea's best interests in the forefront.

Section III.(2) of the Agreed Framework specifies that "[t]he DPRK will consistently take steps to implement the North-South Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." The Agreed Framework goes on to say in section III.(3) that "[t]he DPRK will engage in North-South dialogue, as this Agreed Framework will help create an atmosphere that promotes such dialogue."

In testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary of State Warren Christopher had this to say about these provisions:

As part of the Framework, North Korea has pledged to resume dialogue with South Korea on matters affecting peace and security on the peninsula. We have made clear that resuming North-South dialogue is essential to the success of the Framework—so important that we were prepared to walk away from the Framework if North Korea had not been willing to meet that condition.

I am gratified that the United States negotiators held firm at least on this issue, that is, including references to these two North-South issues. Nevertheless, and while I remain disturbed about many aspects of the Agreed Framework, I am concerned that the requirements of success or even progress in the North-South dialog were not spelled out in greater detail. For instance, what is the time line for progress? At what point will the United States stop fulfilling its commitments under the Agreed Framework if there has not been progress in North-South relations?

It is this lack of specificity that led me and my colleagues to introduce this resolution. I know and appreciate that the administration is taking a firm public and private line that North-South dialog is essential. They reiterated that position, jointly with the South Koreans, on November 2-3, during the annual Security Consultative meeting in Seoul. I also appreciate the fact that the administration agreed not to oppose this resolution but rather to work with me on achieving an objective we both support, a strong, renewed dialog between North and South Korea.

However, and this is the key point, as usual, the North Koreans are ignoring their responsibilities and resisting restarting the dialog. That is why the resolution calls on the executive branch to take steps to ensure that the North Koreans understand that the implementation of the Agreed Framework is linked to substantive progress in the dialog between North and South Korea, including through developing timetables for achieving measures to reduce tensions between North and South Korea.

Although not a comprehensive list, such positive measures could include: First, holding a North-South summit; second, dismantling North Korea's reprocessing facility; third, initiating mutual nuclear facility inspections; fourth, establishing North-South liaison offices; fifth, establishing a North-South joint military commission; sixth, expanding trade relations; sev-

enth, promoting freedom to travel; eighth, encouraging exchanges and cooperation in science and technology, education, the arts; health, sports, the environment, publishing, journalism, and other fields of mutual interest; ninth, establishing postal and telecommunications services; and tenth, reconnecting railroads and roadways.

The resolution calls on the President to report to Congress within 90 days regarding the progress made in promoting communication and contact between North and South Korea, and every 6 months thereafter.

Since the signing of the Agreed Framework with the United States, we have seen North Korea go to great lengths to avoid any involvement with South Korea. The North Koreans refused for several months to accept South Korean reactors. The joint press statement issued in Kuala Lumpur by the United States and North Korea did not include a direct reference to South Korea's central role in providing the light water reactors. And the North Koreans had maintained that the United States will be its principal point of contact in the negotiations.

Also, North Korea continues to take steps to try to destroy the Armistice Agreement while insisting that it will only deal with the United States concerning an ultimate peace treaty. Further, North Korea continues to provide evidence that it wants to continue being a rogue nation, for example just a few days ago sending infiltrators into the South to attempt to cause problems for our ally. Mr. President, in sum, just as North Korea's attempts to downplay the role of South Korea while putting distance between the United States and South Korea must not be tolerated, North Korea's misbehavior should be condemned.

I would note one recent development which had some potential for positive change—but then, typically, became a problem area because of the North's irresponsible behavior. North Korea and South Korea recently held talks in Beijing to discuss North Korea's renewed request for rice from its cousins in the South to relieve the food shortage in the North. This followed an earlier successful agreement to ship rice to the North—although the North then acted in its typically boorish fashion by arresting some of those who were trying to help its people. Now, despite the helping hand from the South, the North continues to resist the South's legitimate attempts to use the talks about rice aid to pave the way for greater dialogue.

Mr. President, I do not need to remind my colleagues that 37,000 American soldiers stationed on the demilitarized zone remain in harm's way. We all received a grim reminder of this when a United States helicopter was shot down on December 17, 1994, killing one United States airman and leading to North Korean detention of another on false charges of American espionage.

These American troops are part of the nearly 2 million troops who face each other across a heavily fortified demilitarized zone. Three decades of on-again, off-again talks between Pyongyang and Seoul have produced no significant progress in reducing tensions. Although a cease-fire effectively ended the Korean War in 1953, the two sides technically remain at war, and tensions today are as strong and all-pervasive as they've ever been.

Mr. President, in sum, the Agreed Framework does not adequately address the inevitable underlying tensions between North and South Korea. Nor do I believe that North and South Korea will simply work everything out without some outside assistance. For that reason, I believe that the Clinton administration must take specific steps to ensure that North Korea lives up to its commitments under the Agreed Framework and understands that, if it does not, it will not receive the benefits which have been promised.

This legislation will take us a step in the right direction. I hope our colleagues in the other body will also pass this legislation soon so that the process can begin.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be deemed read the third time, passed, the preamble agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and that any statements relating to the joint resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

So the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 29) was deemed read the third time, and passed.

The preamble was agreed to.

The joint resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S.J. RES. 29

Whereas the Agreed Framework Between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of October 21, 1994, states in Article III, paragraph (2), that "[t]he DPRK will consistently take steps to implement the North-South Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula";

Whereas the Agreed Framework also states the "[t]he DPRK will engage in North-South dialogue, as this Agreed Framework will help create an atmosphere that promotes such dialogue";

Whereas the two agreements entered into between North and South Korea in 1992, namely the North-South Denuclearization Agreement and the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression and Exchanges and Cooperation, provide an existing and detailed framework for dialogue between North and South Korea;

Whereas the North Korean nuclear program is just one of the lingering threats to peace on the Korean Peninsula; and

Whereas the reduction of tensions between North and South Korea directly serve United States interests, given the substantial defense commitment of the United States to South Korea and the presence on the Korean Peninsula of United States troops: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. STEPS TOWARD NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) substantive dialogue between North and South Korea is vital to the implementation of the Agreed Framework Between the United States and North Korea, dated October 21, 1994; and

(2) together with South Korea and other concerned allies, and in keeping with the spirit and letter of the 1992 agreements between North and South Korea, the President should pursue measures to reduce tensions between North and South Korea and should facilitate progress toward—

(A) holding a North Korea-South Korea summit;

(B) initiating mutual nuclear facility inspections by North and South Korea;

(C) establishing liaison offices in both North and South Korea;

(D) resuming a North-South joint military discussion regarding steps to reduce tensions between North and South Korea;

(E) expanding trade relations between North and South Korea;

(F) promoting freedom to travel between North and South Korea by citizens of both North and South Korea;

(G) cooperating in science and technology, education, the arts, health, sports, the environment, publishing, journalism, and other fields of mutual interest;

(H) establishing postal and telecommunications services between North and South Korea; and

(I) reconnecting railroads and roadways between North and South Korea.

SEC. 2. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Beginning 3 months after the date of enactment of this joint resolution, and every 6 months thereafter, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a report setting forth the progress made in carrying out section 1.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this joint resolution—

(1) the term "appropriate congressional committees" means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives;

(2) the term "North Korea" means the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; and

(3) the term "South Korea" means the Republic of Korea.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1995

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2394, and further, that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will state the bill by title.

A bill (H.R. 2394) to increase, effective as of December 1, 1995, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities, and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 3054

(Purpose: To propose a substitute)

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of

Senator SIMPSON and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT], for Mr. SIMPSON, proposes an amendment numbered 3054.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, effective on December 1, 1995, increase the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary, as specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount in effect under section 1162 of such title.

(4) NEW DIC RATES.—The dollar amounts in effect under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1311(a) of such title.

(5) OLD DIC RATES.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1311(a)(3) of such title.

(6) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES WITH MINOR CHILDREN.—The dollar amount in effect under section 1311(b) of such title.

(7) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.—The dollar amounts in effect under sections 1311(c) and 1311(d) of such title.

(8) DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—The dollar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF PERCENTAGE INCREASE.—(1) The increase under subsection (a) shall be made in the dollar amounts specified in subsection (b) as in effect on November 30, 1995. Each such amount shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 1995, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(2) In the computation of increased dollar amounts pursuant to paragraph (1), any amount which as so computed is not an even multiple of \$1 shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons within the purview of section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who are not in receipt of compensation payable pursuant to chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

At the same time as the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security

Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 1996, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased pursuant to section 2.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, it is a pleasure for me, as chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, to summarize and comment briefly on legislation to grant to recipients of VA compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation [DIC] benefits a cost of living adjustment [COLA] increase, effective on checks delivered to them at the first of the year. This legislation is appropriate—even as we proceed this very week to each final agreements with the House on reconciliation measures.

Mr. President, let me assure this body from the get-go that the Committee on Veterans Affairs will meet its reconciliation targets. Indeed, this legislation contains one provision—the so-called round-down provision that I will explain in just a moment—which will help the committee meet its targets. I give this assurance up front—just so all will be comfortable that this Senator has not suddenly gone soft and become a wild-eyed big spender. I surely have not. Even so, however, I believe that the recipients of veterans' compensation ought to receive a COLA—especially since we on the Veterans Committee have found a proper way to reach our reconciliation targets, and get this Nation on a path to a balanced budget, without denying such a COLA.

This bill, which was approved unanimously by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs on September 20, 1995, is simple and straight-forward. It would grant to recipients of certain VA benefits—most notably, veterans with service-connected disabilities, who receive VA compensation, and the survivors of veterans who have died as a result of service-connected injuries or illnesses, who receive dependency and indemnity compensation or DIC—the same COLA that Social Security recipients will receive. So, for example, if Social Security recipients receive a 2.6-percent adjustment at the beginning of next year—as it appears they will—then so too would the beneficiaries of VA compensation and DIC.

The bill would also do one other thing: It would modify the methodology by which VA computes the amount of monthly benefit checks, as so adjusted. VA benefits, Mr. President, are paid in round-dollar amounts. As a result, when a round-dollar benefit amount—say, as an example, the current benefit of \$260 per month going to a 30-percent disabled veteran—is multiplied by a Consumer Product Index percentage of, say, 2.6 percent, it almost invariably yields a mathematical product that is not a round-dollar amount. In the case of a \$260 benefit check, for example, a 2.6-percent increase would yield a nonrounded number of \$266.76.

VA practice, in the past, has been to round up fractional dollar amounts of